

Marion County Bible Society collection S2200

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
317-232-3671

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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Indianapolis Sabbath School Union.
Title	Marion County Bible Society collection
Date	1823-1859
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S2200

Preferred Citation

Marion County Bible Society collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Administrative History

The Indianapolis Sabbath School Union, the city's first Sunday school, was founded on April 6, 1823 by Dr. Isaac Coe, the first college-trained physician to practice in Indianapolis, Indiana. Coe served as the superintendent of the sabbath school. The organization met above the shop of Mr. C. Scudder for the first three months, before moving to the original location of the First Presbyterian church, when it was founded in July, 1823. The society was later associated with the Indiana Sabbath School Union, a branch of the American Sabbath School Union, which was founded in Charleston, Indiana on August 2, 1826.

The Marion County Bible Society, affiliated with the Indianapolis Sabbath School Union, was one of six societies in Indiana, which were sections of the American Bible Society, founded in 1816. Their mission was to supply Bibles to anyone at cost, if they could afford to pay, and for free if they could not.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Esarey, Logan. *A History of Indiana*, vol. 1. (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1918), 325-326.

"100th Anniversary of Founding of the First Sunday School in Indianapolis, Friday, April 6." *Indianapolis News*, March 30, 1923, 25. Accessed January 5, 2015. <http://www.newspapers.com>.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes materials from the Marion County Bible Society and Indianapolis Sabbath School Union ranging from 1823 to 1859, including an Indianapolis Sabbath School Union pupil accounts book during 1827 to 1828; questions for a Bible class; the system of rules from the committee of religious instruction, probably for the governing of the sabbath schools (1827); annual reports from the superintendant of the Indianapolis Sabbath School Union and its board of directors (1824); a missionary roll for the Marion County Sabbath School (1829); accounts of the history and statistics of attendance at the sabbath school for 1823-1847; financial accounts from the 1820s, with information such as the number of Bibles sold; an attendance booklet circa 1820s; and a list of names, probably the founders of the Indianapolis Sabbath School Union as Isaac and Rebekah Coe are the first names. The account records from 1827 to 1834 include those kept by the society's agent, Samuel Merrill (1792-1855). The records also include the Indianapolis Sabbath School Union Society (1824-1844), with names of students and the board of directors. The sale of Bibles record lists the purchaser, number of Bibles or testaments, price, and date.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a transfer from the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library on 1929/05/03.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2015/07/02 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield. EAD finding aid created 2015/07/02 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield. EAD finding aid revised 2016/01/05 by Brittany Kropf.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Marion County Bible Society.

Geographic Name(s)

- Indianapolis (Ind.)
- Marion County (Ind.)

Personal Name(s)

- Coe, Isaac
- Merrill, Samuel, 1792-1855

Subject(s)

- Accounts
- Frontier and pioneer life--Indiana
- Religious education
- School children
- Sunday schools--Indiana--History--19th century